

By: Bernal

H.B. No. 658

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 658:

By: Laubenberg

C.S.H.B. No. 658

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to priority voting for voters with certain disabilities substantially impairing mobility.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.0013 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0013. ACCEPTING VOTERS WITH CERTAIN DISABILITIES.

(a) In this section, "mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate" has the meaning assigned by Section 681.001, Transportation Code.

(b) An election officer may accept a person with a mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate who is offering to vote before accepting others offering to vote at the polling place who arrived before the person.

(c) Notice of the priority given to persons with a mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate shall be posted:

(1) at one or more locations in each polling place where it can be read by persons waiting to vote;

(2) on the Internet website of the secretary of state;  
and

(3) on each Internet website relating to elections maintained by a county.

(d) The notice required by Subsection (c) must read:

1 "Pursuant to Section 63.0013, Election Code, an election officer  
2 may give voting order priority to individuals with a mobility  
3 problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to move  
4 around. A person assisting an individual with a mobility problem  
5 may also, at the individual's request, be given voting order  
6 priority. Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you for  
7 voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use of  
8 portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the  
9 ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic  
10 condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the  
11 inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a  
12 brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device."

13 (e) A person assisting a voter in accordance with Section  
14 64.032(c) may be accepted to vote concurrently with a person  
15 accepted under Subsection (b) of this section at the voter's  
16 request.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.